

Job 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark; let it look for light, but have none; neither let it see the dawning of the day:

Analysis

Job wishes that the stars of twilight on his conception night had remained dark, that it had looked for light in vain, and never seen the 'eyelids of the morning' (dawn's first rays). The poetic imagery of dawn's 'eyelids' personifies morning as awakening from sleep. Job wishes that night had been eternal, never giving way to the day that would mark his existence. This sustained metaphor of darkness expressing non-existence shows remarkable literary artistry even in deepest suffering.

Historical Context

Stars at twilight and the first rays of dawn were carefully observed in ancient cultures for both practical navigation and religious/astrological purposes. Job's wish inverts the natural order celebrated in creation accounts.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does Job's sustained poetic artistry in describing his anguish teach us about how suffering and creativity can coexist?
2. How do you express the inexpressible aspects of your pain?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֹא תִּאֵלֶּה	לֹא וְרֹא	תִּשְׁפַּט	בְּשָׁמְךָ	בְּכָכְבָּרִים	וְאֵלֹא תִּחְשַׁכְּ
thereof be dark	Let the stars	of the twilight	let it look	for light	H369 H408
H2821	H3556	H5399	H6960	H216	
רֹא הָא !	בְּעַפְעַפְיִ	שְׁחָרָה :			
but have none neither let it see	the dawning	of the day			
H7200	H6079	H7837			

Additional Cross-References

Job 41:18 (Light): By his neesings a light doth shine, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.

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